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10 September 2015

I am writing to confirm the outcome of the FE Commissioner-led Structure and Prospect Appraisal (**SPA**) of Greenwich Community College (**GCC**) and to set out the actions we now expect GCC to take to ensure the SPA outcomes are fully implemented. I am grateful for the support that the FE Commissioner has received from yourself and the college during the SPA, and the steps you have taken to date to respond to the recommendations in my letter of 12 February 2015.

As you are aware, in light of the notification by the Skills Funding Agency on 19 December 2014 that GCC had been graded as inadequate by Ofsted at its most recent inspection, the FE Commissioner reviewed the position of your college between 12 and 16 January 2015.

The FE Commissioner concluded that GCC has serious problems, both in terms of the quality of its offer and its worsening budget position. It was recommended that GCC be urgently placed in Administered College status and a SPA conducted. This SPA began in April 2015 and reached its conclusion in August 2015.

I have now received the FE Commissioner's SPA report – a copy of which is attached. The report recommends that GCC should enter into a merger with Bromley College of Further and Higher Education (**Bromley College**), subject to the completion of due diligence. I fully support this recommendation and charge the college with putting in place the necessary arrangements to ensure the required due diligence is completed as soon as possible, with a view to implementing the merger during January 2016.

I note that GCC has been engaged throughout the SPA and the governing body has formally endorsed this recommendation. I have asked my officials in the funding

agencies to work with you to ensure the effective and smooth transition of provision to Bromley College.

Until the merger has been completed, GCC remains: (i) in formal intervention, (ii) under Administered College status, and (iii) subject to enhanced monitoring and review by the FE Commissioner. An FE Adviser will work with the funding agencies to monitor progress and report back to my officials regularly. Once the merger has taken place, the FE Commissioner will re-visit the merged college to confirm that the SPA outcome has been successfully implemented.

In line with the intervention process published on GOV.UK (May 2014) summaries of the findings from all FE Commissioner-led SPAs are published. I attach a copy of the summary with this letter. This summary will be sent for publication two weeks after the date of this letter.

I have copied this letter to the Chair of Bromley College, the FE Commissioner and my officials in the funding agencies.

If you have any questions about the FE Commissioner's assessment or this letter please contact [fecommissioner@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fecommissioner@bis.gsi.gov.uk) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Boles', written in a cursive style.

**NICK BOLES MP**